

drilling of oil and gas under the Great Lakes. Canada allows gas drilling directly in the Great Lakes. Proponents of oil drilling in the Great Lakes say the risk is minimal, small, tiny.

I say tiny is too big. A gallon of oil spilled in Lake Superior would take 999 years to be cleared out by natural flow; Lake Michigan, 99 years; Lake Huron, 60 years.

So if my colleagues want to play Russian roulette, Mr. Speaker, how many barrels on their gun would they be comfortable with? 100,000? One million?

I wish my colleagues in the Nation a happy Earth Day, and I ask them to consider my legislation to protect this valuable resource.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NORWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915-1923

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as my colleagues and I do every year at this time, in a proud but solemn tradition to remember and pay tribute to the victims of one of history's worst crimes against humanity, the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to 1923.

The issue of genocide has been forced onto our conscience and consciousness at the end of the 20th century by the tragic events in Kosovo. The ugly term "ethnic cleansing" has become a frequently heard expression. Indeed, one of the major rationales for the current NATO campaign has been to prevent the 20th century, which began with genocide, from ending with genocide.

Comparisons can serve a useful and instructive role, but it is important at the same time to remember the uniqueness of an event such as the Armenian Genocide, one of the most horrible events of the 20th century and in all human history. Yet many, perhaps most Americans, and most people

around the world are barely aware of this extremely significant historical event.

Even more troubling than ignorance or indifference is the phenomenon of denial. Yes, just as with the obscene efforts to deny the Nazi Holocaust, there are actually people who try to deny that the Armenian Genocide ever happened. And we must meet these denials, these so-called revisionist claims, head on with the truth. The Armenian Genocide did happen.

The Armenian Genocide was the systematic extermination of one-and-a-half million Armenian men, women, and children during the final years of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. This was the first genocide of the 20th century, but sadly not the last.

Saturday, April 24, will mark the 84th anniversary of the unleashing of the Armenian Genocide. And Armenian-Americans throughout the United States, and people of conscience everywhere are commemorating this event in various ways. The commemoration that I will participate in will be held on Sunday afternoon in Times Square in New York City. And there will be commemorations in my home State of New Jersey, around the country, and around the world.

The ANCA and the Armenian Assembly of America have both been in the forefront of calling for recognition of the genocide not just for the people of Armenian descent but for all of us as an act of education and witness about the evils of genocide and the danger of forgetting.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that the United States still does not officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. Bowing to strong pressure from Turkey, the U.S. State Department has for more than 15 years shied away from referring to the events of 1915 through 1923 by the word "genocide." President Clinton and his recent predecessors have annually issued proclamations on the anniversary of the genocide but always stopped short of using the word "genocide," thus minimizing and not accurately conveying what really happened.

In an effort to address this lapse in our own Nation's record, a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress will be working to enact legislation affirming the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide.

Expected to be introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADONOVICH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), our Democratic whip, the legislation calls on the President to collect all U.S. records on the genocide and to provide them to the House Committee on International Relations, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that the U.S. should go clearly on record and unambiguously recognize the Armenian Genocide and set aside April 24 as a day of remembrance.

It is also nothing short of a crime against memory and human decency in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, that the Republic of Turkey denies that the genocide ever took place and has even mounted an aggressive effort to try to present an alternative and false version of history, using its extensive financial and lobbying resources in this country. The Turkish Government has embarked on a strategy of endowing Turkish studies programs at various universities around the U.S., including a program at Princeton University in my home State of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly a decade, the solemn remembrance of the tragedy of the genocide has been alleviated somewhat about the remarkable progress made by the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Among the international dignitaries coming to Washington this weekend to take part in the NATO summit will be President Kocharian of the Republic of Armenia. President Kocharian will also address Members of Congress next Tuesday in this Capitol Building. He will take time out from the NATO activities on Saturday to lay a wreath at the tomb of President Woodrow Wilson, whose administration recognized that what was happening to the Armenian people under the Ottoman Empire during and after World War I represented a unique kind of evil, and President Wilson tried to at least somewhat alleviate the suffering.

It is interesting that President Kocharian will be here as NATO is involved in a campaign against atrocities being committed against a civilian population. Back in the time of the Armenian Genocide, when Armenians were being murdered and deported and all record of the Armenian presence was erased, there was no Western alliance of democracies committed to stopping aggression, brutality, and genocide. Do we wish that there had been then?

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, let me just say I know that the Armenian Genocide is a painful subject to discuss. Yet we must never forget what happened and never cease speaking out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today is Earth Day. I chose to commemorate Earth Day by introducing the Academic Excellence and Environmental